

Attn: Secretary, FCC
MD 94-19
1/8/1994

Please be informed
that we are totally
against the FCC's raise
of the marine radio
license fee from 35.00
to \$70.00 for 5 years to
105.00 for a 10 year
license. It is an
outrageous charge that
poses a threat to
the safety of boaters.

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MAR 28 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Richard + Signif Teglia
8810 W. Harrison
Brookfield, Ill. 60513

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94-19

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MAR 28 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

March 24, 1994

Secretary F.C.C.
1919M St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sir,

I have read with great concern, of your intention to raise "again" the marine radio license fee.

The fee of \$115. is unbelievable. This will result in the removal altogether of VHF sets from many small boats, which will have a great effect on safety. This is a bad move from a department that has always served the public well.

Sincerely,

Marvin T. Bradley

Marvin T. Bradley

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Chris

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MAR 28 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

94-19

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

3714 Timberline Drive
West Palm Beach FL 33406
21 March 1994

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington DC 20554

Gentlemen:

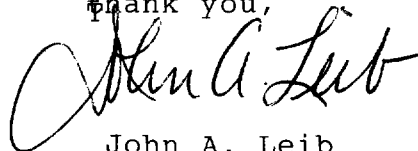
As a citizen, taxpayer, and recreational boater, I strongly oppose the expanded fees for marine radio licenses.

As endorsed by the US Coast Guard, marine radios are first and foremost a safety device. Boaters should be encouraged to have this equipment, not penalized..

I join in with 10 million other boaters in condemning this user fee which does nothing for us and only serves to fund the federal bureaucracy.

I urge you to reconsider the new fees and to waive the fee altogether for pleasure boats.

Thank you,



John A. Leib

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BOAT U.S.

Boat Owners Association of The United States

Washington National Headquarters
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

703-823-9550

March 25, 1994

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Federal Register Notice
MM Docket No. 94-19; FCC 94-46

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MAR 28 1994
FCC MAIL ROOM

As an organization that represents nearly 500,000 recreational boat owners, we would like to comment upon the Commission's Proposed Rule to implement Section 9 of the Communications Act to assess and collect regulatory fees from those applying for or renewing an FCC "ship's station" license.

We are opposed to the institution of such fees because they will have a detrimental impact on boating safety. A \$105 fee, which is nearly equal to the cost of many marine VHF radios, will not encourage those who currently operate unlicensed VHF radios to license their equipment and we suspect that a fee of this magnitude will provide a disincentive for current license holders to renew. Furthermore, those just now purchasing boats will be discouraged from even installing a radio on board because of the added high cost.

Without a radio, a boater cannot call for help in an emergency, listen to weather forecasts or storm warnings while out on the water, or hear another's call for help when they might be near enough to assist. The use of other emergency and navigation gear such as radar and emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs) that also require FCC licenses will likewise be discouraged. This too could have a major impact on navigational safety and search and rescue operations. While an argument can be made that profit-making businesses such as telephone companies, cable and broadcast TV station owners, and radio station owners should share in the operational costs of the FCC through a regulatory fee, we believe it is wholly inappropriate for the federal government to charge its citizens a fee for having a consumer product which is primarily purchased for emergency use.

The Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Adm. J. William Kime, has recognized the seriousness of this dilemma and has gone on record opposed to including recreational boaters in the fee schedule. "This equipment ... greatly enhances safety and significantly improves the Coast Guard's ability to provide assistance in emergencies." With fewer marine radios on the water, the Coast Guard and other response agencies will have a more difficult time locating a vessel in distress, perhaps increasing the expense of the Coast Guard's search and rescue missions. In addition, major technical enhancements such as automatic "mayday" signals from a VHF radio that provide an exact position from a Loran or GPS interface just now coming on the market will likewise be discouraged.

We understand that a waiver to amateur or "ham" radio operators has already been provided in the legislative language because these hobbyists perform a public service during emergencies such as natural disasters. Section 9(d) states that the Commission may waive, reduce or defer payment of a fee in any specific instance for good cause shown, where such action would promote the public interest. Coast Guard Commandant Kime, in a letter to the Commission dated Feb. 18, 1994, states categorically that such a waiver would "enhance maritime safety and promote the public interest." We agree with this assessment. We believe the legislative history gives the Commission both the flexibility and the authority to make exceptions for safety and other reasons clearly in the public interest. A waiver for voluntarily equipped vessels would be consistent with a waiver for ham radios and we urge the Commission in the strongest terms to grant a waiver.

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Furthermore, we object to the institution of regulatory fees for "ship's station" licenses on the grounds that while the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1993 provides the Commission with the authority to recover the costs of enforcement, policy and rulemaking activities, user information services, and international activities, the proposed regulation does not include any analysis of costs to the Commission of providing these services to recreational boat owners. This is especially relevant as the U.S. Coast Guard, not the Commission, is responsible for conducting on-the-water enforcement.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment upon the proposed rule and will gladly provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Dickinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elaine Dickinson
Assistant Vice President, Government Affairs



BOAT U.S.

Boat Owners Association of The United States

Washington National Headquarters
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

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March 25, 1994

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
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We appreciate this opportunity to comment upon the proposed rule and will gladly provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Dickinson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Elaine Dickinson
Assistant Vice President, Government Affairs

94700117

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

January 3, 1994

MD 94-19

To: Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAR 2 8 1994

From: Thomas P. Abair
31 W. Great Lakes Ave.
River Rouge, Mich. 48218

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

JAN 25 12 51 PM '94

PUBLIC SERVICE

Subject: Proposed increase of the "Radio tax"

To whom it may concern;

Once again, the Federal Government is attempting to squeeze more tax money from the working middle class. The proposed "radio tax" increase will only replace the "boat tax" that fell by the wayside after the working class finally got fed up with the Federal Pick Pockets.

How do you think you're going to enforce this new tax? You don't have enough inspectors and recently you have been using the Coast Guard to enforce your license laws. Well guess what, now the Coast Guard is cutting personnel! Who is going to do your dirty work now?

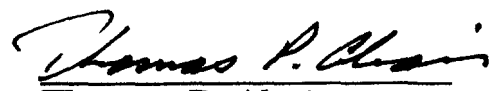
The wealthier boaters already have cellular phones that can be written off to their companies, so they won't need or won't license their radios. You will turn people with less money into criminals because they won't be able to afford the license, but will still want the protection provided by the radio. By the way, no rescue agency monitors C B radio anymore.

Your "radio tax" has gone from free to \$35 in 3 years and now you propose a 100% increase. Were you ordered to do this, or are you trying to impress Congress?

Normally you pay a tax to help defray the cost of a service provided, but we are talking about the right to use air waves. What's next; how about licenses to use stereos, cordless phones, cellular phones, toy walkie talkies, garage door openers, beepers, TV remote controllers and scanners? What's the difference?

This tax increase will only encourage illegal use of marine radio frequencies and will create the same mess that you have with the CB radios.

Wake up! The American people are fed up with the sneaky new taxes proposed by every agency that wants to justify their existence.


Thomas P. Abair

CC: Congressman Dingell
Senators Reagle and Levin

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To: Sec't. of the FCC

MD94-19

11/18/93

c/o Office of Managing Director

Federal Communications Commission

1919 M ST

Washington, DC 20554

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MAR 28 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Sir (or Madam)

Please let this letter serve as
my official OBJECTION to (as reported
in Nov. 1993 issue of Boat/U.S. Reports magazine)
the FCC planned additional \$7/year

(for ea. YR. for 5 YRS. TOTAL \$35 - in
addition to the current \$35 license fee)

VHF marine radio license fee. The current
(excessive) fee is enough of a burden on
recreational boaters. In the private sector during
this poor economy we've had to tighten
our belts in order to survive, Gov't. should
be demanded to do likewise OR do you in Gov't
live in a dream world & believe money grows on trees?

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Radisson Reservations Worldwide 800-331-3333

(over)

Also, while on the subject of money,
I highly object to my hard earned
money - Taxpayers' money, Being
wrecklessly spent on pursuing Legal
litigation Re: Howard Stern
disc jockey in NYC. I hear more
indecent words on PBS channel 13
& just about every other TV & radio
station - Nationwide. Go on & do your
job within the parameters of FCC guidelines.
The FCC (I believe) has lost objectivity
with this one Radio station/Disc jockey.
Your comments & suggestions are encouraged.

G. LeVerde
US P.O. Box # 1040
Linden, NJ 07036-0001

11/17/98.

MD 94-19

DOCKET FILE ONLY ORIGINAL

March 9, 1994

Sec of the FCC.

Federal Communications Comm.

Washington DC 20554.

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MAR 28 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Secretary

This letter is in response to the proposed V.H.F. license fee hike for recreational boaters. I feel that user groups should pay for their programs but at reasonable rates. These are a few facts as I see them.

1) Safety - the need for V.H.F. radios on the Great Lakes is essential. Making them cost prohibitive to some would compromise safety and possible rescue.

2) The boating community has always paid its way but appropriate reasonable costs must be involved.

3) I'm from the Great Lakes region and have observed very poor FCC radio regulation enforcement. The last fee increase was supposed to enforce the regulations better. I've not observed this at all.

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In closing, I am retired now and boating, fishing, and being on the water was part of my retirement plans. A V.H.F. fee is needed but no to the point of putting the user group at risk.

Thank You.

Respectfully Yours
Arthur E. Lark
2660 Lamotte St
Marlette Me 48453.

MD 94-19

November 8, 1993

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MAR 28 1994

Dear Sir,

I understand that the FCC is planning to propose new user fee's of approx. \$7.00 per year or \$35.00 per 5 years. I think you are making a great mistake trying this one. You seen what happened to the Boat user's fee.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

For one thing everything concerning a boat has started to cost more. The economy isn't any help at the present due to people losing their jobs and having to sell their Boats. People just don't have any extra money.

It hasn't been to long ago that you started to charge the standard \$35.00 fee for 5 years. With all the boaters that have marine radio's that is a awful lot of money coming in that you did not have before.

It appears that a lot of organizations including the FCC are starting to get "GREEDY" and I can see where this proposal is going to cause a lot of problems. The boating public is not going to let this fly, you can be assured of that.

I hope that you will reconsider this proposal and throw it where it belongs, in the trash.

cc:To Boat/US

Sincerely

Charles M. Kahlert

179 W. Ocean Ave.

Norfolk, Va. 23503

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1 copy